

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear fellow Rotarians,

March is the month in which Rotarians and their partners in service celebrate Rotaract, and this year we observe the 36th anniversary of this vital, Rotary-sponsored service club program for young men and women ages 18 to 30. With clubs in more than 150 countries, Rotaract is preparing some 170,000 young leaders to better serve their communities.

This month, I'm wearing a shirt style first popularized in northern and northeastern Thailand, a country that is home to 54 Rotaract clubs. Such shirts, called *sua parajathan*, are designed for mobility and comfort. The formal, white version that I'm wearing was traditionally reserved for temple, but more recently, it has also been worn for local festivals and celebrations. Casual variations are seen today throughout Southeast Asia. More than 125 years old, the functional *sua parajathan* has adapted over time to remain an essential aspect of Thai culture.

As Rotarians, we are always looking for ways we can ensure the continued relevance of our organization. One of the most effective ways to keep in step with the times and prepare for the future is supporting RI's programs for youths and young adults. Through programs such as Interact, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Youth Exchange, and Rotaract, we have a unique opportunity to ready tomorrow's leaders and expand our efforts to promote goodwill on a global level.

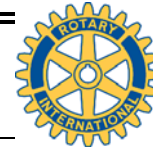
Rotarians play an important role in the Rotaract program, serving as leaders and mentors for an enthusiastic group of young men and women. In turn, Rotarians reap rewards from their participation. Rotaract members share their youthful energy and enthusiasm with their sponsoring clubs, provide valuable support for existing projects, and contribute fresh ideas for service. Equipped with the skills and inspiration necessary to become leaders in their communities, some Rotaractors become Rotarians. Others go on to lead and contribute to their communities in different ways. Whatever their futures hold, the experiences these young adults derive as members of local Rotaract clubs prepare them to carry on our tradition of service.

In addition to celebrating World Rotaract Week, districts everywhere will be holding presidents-elect training seminars (PETS) this month. These training sessions, whether single-district or multidistrict events, are designed to prepare club presidents for the coming Rotary year and are critical to the ongoing success of clubs and districts.

Strong leaders possess a natural ability to set goals, strategize, and communicate. But even the most dynamic natural leaders can falter if they are not prepared for the task at hand. When we support training opportunities like PETS and youth programs such as Rotaract, we help guarantee a steady flow of confident, educated, and prepared Rotary leaders.

It has often been said that preparation is half the battle. This month and every month, I encourage you to prepare for the future by supporting RI's up-and-coming leaders, so that we can continue to *Lend a Hand* in service for years to come. Supporting and caring for youth is Rotary's investment in the future.

Jonathan Majiyagbe
President, Rotary International



The Four Way Flasher

**Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter**

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INVOCATION

Mar. 02	Liz Attarmigirian	Mar. 09	Carol Bartolomie
Mar. 16	Brian Bekar	Mar. 23	Ineke Boekhorst

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
Mar. 25	Doris Gagel	Stan Wade
April 22		



Lend a Hand

Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or e-mail peter.boekhorst@telus.net

This only requires 2 hours per member every 2 years and is the easiest, best paid job ever: \$625.00 / hr.

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Bill Neale, Pitt Meadows Airport Manager

NEXT WEEK: Inspector Fraser MacRae, Meadow Ridge RCMP

TO ALL MEMBERS RE INCOME TAX RECEIPTS

Please note that I have prepared and delivered all income tax receipts for donations to Rotary through our foundation for 2003. These receipts were prepared for the Sports Banquet ticket, the Serratta dinner, the Xmas donation, Polio plus, and the odd other special donation. If you think you should have received a receipt and have not, please let me know by email or in person at our next meeting. Please note that no receipts are given out for corporate donations or ticket purchases unless I am given specific instructions to do so.

Ken Paterson – Treasurer

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
March 4	12:30	WineZest Meeting	ACT Boardroom
April 3		District 5050 Assembly	Kwantlen University-College, Surrey
April 17		WineZest 2004	ACT, Maple Ridge
May 13-15		District 5050 Conference	Skagit Valley Casino Resort

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$1,390 + 1/2 of today's sales, 5 cards, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

STILL NO WINNER! The jackpot is now over \$1,400 and only 5 cards left. Are we going to go down to the last card again?? Oh yah and attendance is UP, UP, UP! (hmm?)

We had Dr Michael Woolnough visit us. He is a member of the Richmond Sunrise club and is looking for support for their upcoming fundraiser. On Saturday March 13 they will be holding a dinner/dance to raise money for the "Make A Wish Foundation" Tickets are \$175/per person and it promises to be a wonderful evening. Attire is formal and the evening is in support of the 6 firefighters who are climbing Mt McKinley to raise funds for this worthwhile cause. If you wish to attend, please see President Laurie



It was mentioned that our Bingo Volunteers are having some problems meeting their commitment and Peter has had to attend on 3 out of the last 4 events. Please take your commitment serious and if you cannot make it, then make arrangements for another to do it for you. Merlyn White, past member has volunteered to cover shifts for \$20, so even if you need to call on her it is far better than just not showing up. We raise a lot of money through this venue and we need to take care of it.

Some of those bingo dollars were spent this week supporting the RCMP Youth Academy to the tune of \$1,000. This is a 10 day RCMP boot camp for youths 16-18 in the Fraser Valley. Each year 50 kids show up and experience the RCMP training. Quite a successful program and certainly worth our continuing to support.

We installed 2 new members this week as well. Debbie MacRae and Alex Kempenaar. Debbie is from the CIBC bank and Alex is with the Best Western. They both look forward to participating in our many worthwhile events and if you have not approached them for your committee yet, please do.

Al Graveson gave us a very interesting Who's who as well. Born and raised in Surrey in 1963 to two very committed parents who inspired Al to continue in community service in his adulthood. His mother is a Senior Olympian Athlete and still runs 10 km races and wins. He has a brother who is a Safety inspector with WCB and a sister who is a RCMP officer. Obviously their family life was inspirational. Al truly enjoys his vocation as an educator, which was very evident in his talk. He also regaled us with a poem he wrote, which I personally quite enjoyed along with the other members I am sure.



Submitted by Debi Pearce

U.S. PEDIATRICS ASSOCIATION APPLAUDS ROTARY'S POLIO EFFORTS

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) presented its Excellence in Public Service Award (EPSA) to Rotary International for its work to eradicate polio worldwide on 21 February. Each year, the AAP honours national officials and organizations for distinguished service on behalf of children and adolescents and their health care.

"With this award, the academy's 57,000 pediatricians not only applaud your leadership and commitment to children...but also convey to the public our sincere appreciation for all that you have accomplished. Your work both in communities and around the world is well known," said AAP Immediate Past President E. Stephen Edwards, who presented the award during the closing plenary session and farewell dinner for district governors-elect at the International Assembly in Anaheim, California, USA. "You have led the charge for funding this critical [polio eradication] initiative and your army of volunteers has literally put lives on the line to deliver

vaccines in regions of conflict. Indeed, your 1.2 million members personify and live each day the 'excellence' in public service."

"I am honoured to accept this award on behalf of Rotary members worldwide who have volunteered their time and personal resources toward a polio-free world," said RI President Jonathan Majiyagbe. "Though almost forgotten in the United States, polio is still crippling and killing children in six countries in Africa and Southeast Asia. As Rotary was the first to have the vision of a polio-free world, we are more committed than ever to ensuring that every child is safe from this age-old scourge."

WORLD ROTARACT WEEK: ROTARACT TURNS 36

Don't miss the chance to celebrate World Rotaract Week!

During the week of 8-14 March 2004, Rotaract will celebrate its 36th anniversary. Rotaract clubs around the world are encouraged to partner with their sponsoring Rotary clubs to commemorate the founding of the first Rotaract club. Rotaractors can increase community awareness of the program by participating in the following activities:

- Making a presentation about Rotaract to a Rotary club that does not yet sponsor one
- Inviting Rotarians to attend a Rotaract club meeting
- Inviting Rotaractors to attend a Rotary club meeting
- Conducting a joint Rotary and Rotaract project

Last year, World Rotaract Week was celebrated in a variety of ways. Numerous Rotaract clubs in Colombia partnered with their sponsoring Rotary clubs to hold blood drives in cities throughout the country. Rotaractors in South Asia held food and clothing drives in conjunction with their Rotary club sponsors to assist families in need. Members of a New Zealand Rotaract club celebrated by creating a new Rotaract club in their community.

OFFICIAL OPENING NEW SCOUT HALL

Last week Saturday, I had the honour of representing our Club at the Official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the New Scout Hall, in the 276th area of Dewdney Trunk Road.

If you haven't seen this new facility, well it's very much worth a tour! Situated on a beautiful 10 acre property (purchased many years ago from the Municipality) "Imagined" by many local Scouters and since perfectly designed by local architect Ron Hoffart. Finally realized after over 20 years of planning, finding funding and ways of cutting costs (and LOTS of red tape!) Here it stands, a seemingly perfect place for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Ventures etc. to conduct regular meetings, camps, Jamborees, District events or anything and everything to do with Youth activities.

The Ceremony was simple and "down-to-earth, as everything in Scouting! But sooo enjoyable and with many "celebrities" from within Scouting, as well as from our Communities in attendance. The actual "ribbon cutting" was done by a representative of each level of Scouting, from Beaver to Venturer, with Kathy Morse and Bob Mang by their sides! After the Ceremony everybody was invited to enjoy a tour of the building, or adventure out and have a look at the trail.....or have a REAL Campfire hot dog.....I felt like "I was back at my old Webster's Corner Cubs leader years", good old Baloo memories! And the Many good times we had!

Ineke

Our Club donated \$ 8,000.00 to this project through our Community Services Committee. Again, we helped a very well worth Project, which will serve our Communities and the Scouting Community for many years to come.

